

Coronavirus Prevention and Protection

716.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The following policies have been incorporated and continue to be followed by the Tulare County Sheriff's Office to help prevent the spread of Covid-19.

716.2 FACE MASK AND FACE SHIELD PROVISIONS

As previously directed in writing and verbally, all staff and inmates must adhere to the following procedures regarding inmates' use and maintenance of face masks and face shields.

716.2.1 INCARCERATED PERSONS - FACE MASK AND FACE SHIELD ISSUANCE AND USE

All inmates incarcerated in the Tulare County Jail system shall be issued a face mask and face shield. All inmates are required to wear both a face mask and a face shield any time they are out of their own cell.

716.2.2 FACE MASK AND FACE SHIELD MAINTENANCE

1. Face masks will be replaced daily. If an inmate requires a new mask prior to or after replacement, the inmate will be issued a new one as needed.
2. Inmates are responsible for maintaining their personal face shield at all times while in custody. The inmate's name and ID number will be written on the bottom of the face shield to ensure that the inmates are only wearing their own face shield.
3. If an inmate attempts to use a face shield to inflict self-harm, or behaves in a way indicating the inmate may do so, the inmate will not be issued a face shield to keep and maintain. Instead, the supervising deputy will provide the inmate a face shield each time the inmate exits his/her cell, and will collect and dispose of the face shield when the inmate returns to his/her cell.
4. If an inmate routinely destroys or alters the issued face shield, this will be documented and only face masks will be allowed in the inmate's cell. In this circumstance, the inmate will be provided a new face shield each time the inmate exits the cell, and it will be collected and disposed of when the inmate returns to the cell.

716.2.3 INMATE COMPLIANCE

- (a) Inmates are required to wear both the face mask and face shield anytime they are out of their own cells. In the event an inmate refuses to wear the issued face mask and/or face shield, the inmate will not be allowed outside of his/her cell until the inmate cooperates with wearing both the face mask and face shield. These incidents will be documented in an inmate infraction report and in the unit log book (Red Book).
- (b) Incidents of intentional destruction or alteration of face masks or face shields will also be documented in an inmate infraction report and in the unit Red Book.

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- (c) In the event an inmate notifies staff that he/she cannot wear a face mask or face shield for medical reasons, staff shall consult with a supervisor.

716.2.4 FACE MASK PROVISIONS: FACILITY STAFF AND TCSO EMPLOYEES HAVING CONTACT WITH INMATES

As previously directed in writing and verbally, all detentions staff are required to wear a face mask and face shield, or approved eye protection, in all Tulare County jail facilities, when social distancing is not possible. Anytime this policy cannot be followed due to exigent circumstances, the incident will be reported to the shift supervisor in writing with an explanation as to the circumstances. Blatant disregard or violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action.

716.3 SOCIAL DISTANCING

As previously directed in writing and verbally, the following directives shall continue to be followed.

716.3.1 VISITATION

In March 2020, the Tulare County Sheriff's Office suspended all contact visitation in all jail facilities including all volunteer programs. Legal visits are conducted through glass on site at the facility, or via video conference.

716.3.2 SHOWERS

Inmates shall only be allowed to shower one at a time in the shower areas. If the facility has a dormitory type setting or other multiple showers in one common area, only the number of inmates that can be kept six feet apart are allowed to shower at one time.

716.3.3 BATHROOMS

Inmates are encouraged to utilize their own bathrooms in their cells whenever possible. In the event an inmate has to utilize a multi-person bathroom, only the number of inmates that can be kept six feet apart are allowed in the bathroom area at one time. In the event there is an emergency and more inmates have a necessity to be in the bathroom area, they will be encouraged to physically distance as much as possible and to wear their face mask and face shield if possible.

716.3.4 DAY ROOM AND YARD AREAS

Inmates are reminded to socially distance (six feet apart) while in the day room and yard areas and must wear their issued face masks and shields while in the day room and yard areas. Staff will continue to allow only the number of inmates out to program at one time that allows for six feet of distance in the day rooms and the yard areas.

716.3.5 DISPENSING MEDICATION

Medication is dispensed at the inmate's cell. (There are no lines to receive medication). The health care provider and Tulare County Sheriff's Office staff member accompanying the health care provider must each wear face masks, face shields and gloves as medication is dispensed. If medication cannot be dispensed through the port in the door and the cell door must be opened, the inmate must wear his/her face mask and shield unless the type of medication being taken prevents this.

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716.4 ISOLATION, QUARANTINE, OBSERVATION AND COVID - 19 TESTING

As of July 14, 2020, Tulare County Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with Tulare County Health and Human Services (HHSA) and Wellpath, has adhered to the following plan with regard to the positive COVID -19 test results, and the prevention of spreading the virus. All fresh bookings and all inmates who have been exposed or tested positive are housed at the Adult Pre-Trial Facility.

716.4.1 ISOLATION UNIT

Inmates who test positive will be isolated for 14 days and must be symptom free for the last 3 days of isolation. If they are not symptom free for the last 3 days, then the isolation period will be extended an additional 7 days until symptom free for the last 3 days. If they are symptom free they can return to general population. The Isolation Unit is a distinct and separate set of cells located in the Adult Pre-Trial Facility. These cells are located on the top tier of the unit. Inmates are only allowed out of their cells to take care of personal hygiene and gather supplies to clean their cells. Inmate time out of the cell shall not exceed 30 minutes at a time. Inmates in this unit must wear a face shield and face mask anytime the inmate is out of their cell. Each inmate in isolation is housed individually in a single cell. This housing arrangement has been approved by HHSA and Wellpath.

716.4.2 QUARANTINE UNIT

Inmates that have been exposed to a positive case of COVID -19 will be monitored by Wellpath daily. They will be tested at day(s) 1, 7 and 14. If all tests come back negative and they are symptom free, they will be transferred back to general population. If they test positive they will be moved to the isolation tier to begin the 14 days of isolation protocol. If at any time these inmates refuse to test, they will be extended from a 14 to 21 day quarantine.

Once they have reached the 21 day mark and have shown no signs nor symptoms for the last 24 hours of the quarantine and deemed cleared by Wellpath, they are released back to general population. The quarantine unit is a distinct and separate unit located at the Adult Pre-Trial facility which houses quarantined inmates separately from isolation inmates. All quarantined inmates are housed on the bottom tier of this unit in a single cell. If quarantine numbers climb high enough to require housing of two quarantine inmates together this can be accomplished in accordance with space requirements.

Inmates in the quarantine unit exit their cells only to take care of personal hygiene and gather supplies to clean their cells. Inmate time out of the cell shall not exceed 30 minutes at a time. Inmates in this unit must wear a face shield and mask anytime the inmate is out of their cell. This housing arrangement has been approved by HHSA and Wellpath.

716.4.3 OBSERVATION UNIT

All fresh bookings are housed in the observation unit for 14 days. If the arrestee shows symptoms at the time of booking, he/she will be tested and sent to the negative air flow cells pending test results. If the inmate tests positive, the inmate will be sent to the isolation unit. If they test negative they will be sent to the quarantine unit and the above listed protocols will be followed. All others will be sent to the observation unit and will be monitored daily by Wellpath. If the inmate is symptom

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free after 14 days, the inmate will be tested and if negative moved into general population. If at any time during the observation period an inmate displays signs or symptoms they will be immediately moved to quarantine. If the inmate refuses to test and shows no signs or symptoms, the inmate will be moved to the quarantine unit and held there an additional 7 days. Once this time period has elapsed, the inmate shows no signs or symptoms, and is deemed safe by Wellpath medical personnel, the inmate will be released to be housed in general population.

All fresh inmates booked into the Tulare County Corrections Division are housed at the Adult Pre-Trial Facility in one of five observation units. These units are distinct and separate from "General Population" units. They are two-person cells. Inmates are housed together with like classification and with inmates that are booked within close time frames. If housed together and booked on different days, observation is extended for the longer housed inmate. These inmates are allowed out of their cells not to exceed 30 minutes daily, to take care of personal hygiene, make phone calls and clean their cells. Inmates in the observation units must wear face masks and face shields any time they are out of their cells. This housing arrangement has been approved by both HHS and Wellpath.

716.4.4 SYMPTOM SCREENING

Symptom screening is provided by Wellpath at intake for fresh bookings and for all other inmates Wellpath determines are displaying symptoms of COVID-19, or housed in the observation, quarantine or isolation units. In addition to the testing administered to inmates in the observation, isolation, and quarantine units per the procedures above, COVID-19 testing is administered to inmates as deemed necessary by Wellpath medical providers based upon screening criteria and clinical judgment.

716.4.5 CLEANING AND SANITATION

The common areas of the observation, quarantine and isolation units are cleaned nightly using the Kaivac system. Inmates in the observation, quarantine and isolation units are responsible for cleaning and sanitizing their cells daily. Each time an inmate permanently leaves a cell, it is cleaned using the Kaivac system prior to a new inmate being housed in the cell. Any surface touched by an inmate in the observation, quarantine and isolation units is sanitized after use, including phones and showers.

716.5 REVISED LEGAL VISITATION POLICY

716.5.1 IN-PERSON LEGAL VISITS

Attorneys may have non-contact visits with clients through the glass in the professional visiting area of the facility. The attorney must contact the facility and request to schedule a non-contact visit.

716.5.2 VIDEO LEGAL VISITS

For access to video legal visits, attorneys must set up a new professional account following the procedures described on the Tulare County Sheriff's Office website at:

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<https://tularecounty.ca.gov/sheriff/index.cfm/divisions/detentions1/detentions-operations/inmate-services/legal-professional-video-visitations/>

In the event that a legal professional is unable to obtain an available time slot, or their desired time slot, in the professional video visitation schedule, and that professional needs to speak to a client due to time constraints etc., the legal professional should contact the facility and staff shall assist the legal professional in scheduling an in-person non-contact visit through the glass in the professional visiting area of the facility.

716.5.3 NOTIFICATION TO INMATE OF LEGAL VISIT REQUEST

Staff shall notify inmates of legal visit requests and shall document when an inmate declines the visit.